

Report of the Information Technology Committee

Over the past year this committee has assessed York's information age readiness based on the following topics:

- Community Leadership and Support
- Telecommunications Infrastructure
- Technology Literacy and Access
- Advanced Technology Training
- Economic Development and E-Commerce
- Community Services and Information
- Education
- Health Care
- Local Government and Community Services
- Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement and Emergency Services
- Non-profits, Arts, Culture and History
- Social Capital
- Quality of Life

In all of the above areas the committee evaluated our assets and needs and developed priorities for an action plan.

Following this we surveyed the community using a grant from the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. The survey was done in two parts, a household and a business component. These were analyzed and compared the priorities already developed.

The following is our action plan. It is divided into the following areas.

- Local Government
- E- Commerce and Economic Development
- Technology Literacy and Access
- Leadership

At the local government level we encourage the digitization and on-line publication of City and County services including meeting agendas and minutes, ordinances and forms. Social services and resources. To that end we need to provide adequate budget support for the training of public officials and the using public. We need to build a spirit of cooperation between government entities and community agencies. Our priority here is to use information technology to serve citizens and run operations efficiently 24/7.

Economic development has a powerful tool in Information Technology. We recommend ongoing training through the Chamber, Development Corporation and the Extension. A mentoring program for start-ups and dissemination of positive developments is suggested. A Technology Incubator should be explored.

Regarding technology literacy and access we recommend local training programs such as the “lunch and learn” programs. A local public access channel for education, event coverage and social agency use is suggested. There is an unmet demand for economical high-speed access. A resource list of IT providers and computer service companies would be useful, as would a Newspaper technology column. An IT Committee website is suggested.

York already has invested in its leadership through Leadership York and Youth Leadership York. We recommend broadening the representation on the IT Committee to include seniors, youth, business and government. A countywide technology plan to disseminate, train and use electronic communication should be developed.